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# Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

L-02 AID-05 IO-10 PC-01 /077 W
---------- 062159
R 031230Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9084
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2703

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SU ET
SUBJ: SUDANESE SPECIAL ENVOY TO ETHIOPIA DISCUSSES RESULTS HIS MISSION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 14263

1. SUMMARY. A SUDANESE SPECICAL ENVOY SENT BY PRESIDENT NIMEIRI TO CONTACT THE DIRG HAS RETURNED FROM ADDIS DEEPLY CONCERNED RE DEVELOPMENTS AND FEARFUL LEST MAJOR MILITARY EFFORT BY DIRG SUPPRESS ELF IN ERITREA ENCOURAGE GALLAS AND OTHER MAJOR ETHIOPIAN ETHNIC GROUPS TAKE ACTION AGAINST ADDIS REGIME. ENVOY ALSO CONCERNED LEST RUMORED PUBLIC TRIAL 140 DETAINEES SERIOUSLY INCREASE TENSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT A TELEPHONE CALL FROM NIMEIRI LATE NOVEMBER 24, MINSTATE FONAFFS JAMAL MUHAMMED AHMED SPENT MOST OF LAST WEEK IN ADDIS CONTACTING DIRG AND TAKING SOUNDINGS AMONG OLD FRIENDS AS TO SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOR ETHIOPIAN REGIME (AHMED
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SERVED FOR THREE YEARS IN ADDIS AND HAS CONSIDERABLE NUMBER

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OF ETHIOPIAN FRIENDS, NOTABLY IN INTELLIGENTSIAL).
IN LONG DISCUSSION WITH ME THIS MORNING AHMED SHARED HIS CONCERNS RE FUTURE AND INDICATED HE PREPARING PESSIMISTIC WRITTEN REPORT FOR NIMEIRI ON LATTERS RETURN FROM CURRENT SERIES STATE VISITS.

3. DESCRIBING SITUATION IN ADDIS AS "WOBBLY", AHMED LISTED FOLLOWING FOUR ELEMENTS WHICH GAVE HIME CAUSE FOR CONCERN RE FUTURE:

A. DIRG RELATIONSHIPS WERE "AMBIGUOUS". NEW CHAIRMAN TEFERI BENTI APPEARED LACK INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY AND IT UNCLEAR WHERE REAL AUTHORITY IN DIRG LAY. AHMED DESCRIBED RUMORED STRONG MAN MENGHISTU AS "MYSTICAL" IN SENSE HIS NAME WIDELY MENTIONED BUT MAN HIMSELF RARELY APC RED IN NORMAL MEETINGS;

B. TERFERI BENTI AND OTHER DIRG MEMBERS APPEARED HAWKISH ON ERITREAN ISSUE;

C. AHMED'S PERSONAL FRIENDS IN ADDIS HAD AVOIDED DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH HIM, LEADING HIM CONCLUDE THEY ARE FRIGHTENED AND/OR OPPOSED DIRG, AND;

D. ETHIOPIA HARBORS FISSIPAROUS TENDENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD DIRG MOVE MAJOR MILITARY FORCES AGAINST ELF, THEIR BACKS WOULD BE "NAKED" AGAINST SOME MOVEMENT BY GALLAS OR OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS LONG DOMINATED BY AMHARAS.

4. AHMED DESCRIBED HIS MEETING WITH DIRG AS AMONG THE MOST BIZARRE IN HIS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE. SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP APPEARED TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN WHO HAD HEADED ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO SEE NIMEIRI IN OCTOBER. HE HAD MADE POINTS OR ASKED QUESTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN, FOLLOWING WHICH THERE HAD BEEN COLLOQUY IN AMHARIC AMONG DIRG AT END OF WHICH VICE CHAIRMAN HAD PROVIDED RESPONSE. AHMED DID NOT GET FEELING OF STRONG LEADERSHIP OR FIRM PURPOSE. HE COMMENTED NOV 24 EXECUTIONS APPARENTLY LARGELY DUE TO POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN MILITARY ALTHOUGH THERE WERE OTHER ELEMENTS INVOLVED. DIRG HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO CONTINUED PRESENCE SUDAN OF RAS MENGESHA SYOUN
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(REPORTED KHARTOUM 2614 OF NOVEMBER 21). AHMED SAID HE HAD RESPONDED AS INSTRUCTED BY NIMEIRI WITH STATEMENT THAT MENGESHA, THOUGH PHYSICALLY IN SUDAN, WAS BEING LOOKED AFTER BU UNHCR AND GOS DID NOT WISH "INTERFERE" IN A UN OPERATION. AHMED APPARENTLY REITERATED THIS STATEMENT MANY TIMES AS DIRG PRESSED HIM HARD ON POINT.

5. ON SUBJECT SUDANESE "MEDIATION", AHMED CONFIRMED NIMEIRI

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HAD RECEIVED REPRESENTATIVE BOTH ELF AND PLF IN KHARTOUM
EARLY NOVEMBER. HE HAD THEREAFTER REPORTED TO DIRG ERITREAN
POSITION THAT THEY SOUGH FULL INDEPENDENCE. DIRG HAD REACTED
NEGATIVELY AND AHMED FEARED INCREASING MILITARY PRESSURE ON
ERITREAN GUERRILLAS. HE DOUBTED SUCH EFFORTS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL,
AT LEAST IN SHORT TERM, AND NOTED SUDAN MIGHT BE FACED WITH
ANOTHER WAVE OF IMMIGRATION BY ERITREAN NONCOMBATTANTS.

6. WITH REPECT PAN-AFRICAN ASPECTS ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS,
AHMED CLAIMED AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN HAPPY WITH NIMEIRI'S
INITIATIVE. SEVERAL HAD SENT HIM MESSAGES SUPPORTING HIS
EFFORTS. DIRG ITSELF HAD APPEALED THROUGH AHMED TO NIMEIRI FOR
"HELP" BUT IT NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHAT NIMEIRI MIGHT BE ABLE
ACCOMPLISH. AHMED INDICATED HE WAS CONCERNED SUDANESE
PRESIDENT MIGHT BE BECOMING OVERLY EXPOSED ON ETHIOPIAN ISSUE
WHEN THERE VIRTUALLY NOTHING HE COULD DO HALT WHAT APPEARED
BE GLOOMY MARCH OF EVENTS IN ADDIS AND ERITREA.

7. AHMED SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE HAILE SELASSIE IN SERIOUS
DANGER EXECUTION. HE NOTED HOWEVER 140 ETHIOPIANS SLATED FOR
PUBLIC TRIAL AND CHARACTERIZED THIS PLUS LIKLIHOOD RESORT GREATER
FORECE IN ERITREA AS THE TWO MOST SERIOUS
ELEMENTS IN INCREASINGLY DEPRESSING SITUATION.

8. COMMENT: AHMED'S COMMENTS ACCORD SUBSTANTIALLY WITH
ADDIS 14263 AND NOTABLY NOT REPEAT NOT WITH VIEWS SUDANESE
EMBOFF REPORTED ADDIS 14208. BOTH FROM MY OWN TALK WITH
NIMEIRI LAST WEEK AND AHMED'S PESSIMISTIC REPORT IT CLEAR THAT
SUDANESE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT WHAT THEY REGARD AS PROBABILITY
INCREASING MILITARY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN EMBATTLED AND UNCERTAIN
DIRG AND TENACIOUS, EXPERIENCED ERITREAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.
AHMED COMMENTED RUEFULLY, WITH REFERENCE DIRG DELEGATION'S
MEETING HERE WITH NIMEIRI, "THEY DO NOT SEEM TO BE TAKING OUR
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# Message Attributes

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